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## The Letters of Franklin K. Lane

### CANDID IN HIS ADVICE TO THE NEW PRESIDENT

Lane's Letters to Wilson Outspoken in Their Suggestions—Hopes and Fears Expressed—Men Who Are Considered Fit Officials—Personal Charm of the Chief Executive.

One more installment, appearing to-morrow, will end the series of letters and diaries of Franklin K. Lane, published by THE NEW YORK HERALD. The closing chapter in this highly important contribution to events in Washington before and in the days of war is one of the most tragic on record. In it Mr. Lane describes his thoughts before and after the surgical operation which failed to prolong his life, and a fragment written on the day before his death is the oft quoted farewell message of this most brilliant American.

FOURTEENTH INSTALLMENT.  
(Copyright 1922 by Anne W. Lane.)

WASHINGTON, January 8, 1913.

Like so many of the Southerners, I fear that Wilson's idea is that he can declare a general policy and be indifferent as to the men who carry it out. There is a certain lack of effectiveness running through the South which makes for sloppiness and a lack of precision. I have found that generalizations do not get anywhere. The strength of any proposition lies in its application. The railroads and the trusts and the packers and all the others who are violating the statutes are indifferent as to how big the law is and upon what sound principles it is based, provided they have a lot of speechmakers to enforce the law. They don't care what the law is; their only concern is as to its enforcement. I am going to give the Democratic party four years of honest trial, and then if it has not more precision, definiteness and clearness of aim, am going to call myself a Progressive, or a Republican, or something else.

Wilson is strong, capable of keeping his own counsel, and capable of making up his mind. In these three respects he differs materially from our present President, whose last flop on the arbitration of the Panama Canal proposition is characteristic.

#### The Great Problem.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, 1913.

Washington is now greatly stirred because Wilson has frowned upon the inaugural ball—a very proper frown, to my way of thinking—but inasmuch as all of the merchants who advance money for the inaugural ceremonies recoup themselves from the receipts from the inaugural ball, there is much weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and Wilson will enter Washington, in my judgment, a very unpopular President, locally. The fact is, I think, he is apt to prove one of the most tremendously disliked men in Washington that ever has been here.

He has a great respect for individuals, and so far as I can discover, a very large respect for the mass. His code is a little new to us; and I feel justified in proceeding upon the theory that every man should help him, and that it is within his (Wilson's) proper function to throw Mr. Everyman down whenever public good requires it, and that his silence never escapes him from interfering at any time. Perhaps you cannot make out just what this means. I am dictating, sitting in my room at home with a very bad cold, and perhaps I do not know precisely what I mean myself; but I am trying to say that under all circumstances Wilson regards himself as a free man, and that he is bound by no ties whatever to do anything or to follow any course; that he recognizes no such thing as consistency, or logic, or gratitude, as in the slightest embarrassing him. . . .

I do hope that the President will get some capable effective Administration officers who will take the burden of patronage off his shoulders and give him a chance to think on the money question, which is his big problem. I like his Chicago speech. I like his New York speech, but I do not find many people who understand him, because he is really a sort of philosopher. He teaches the psychology of new thought, the influence and effect of thought upon government.

#### The Charm of Wilson.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1913.  
The President is the most charming

tority and the assumption by almost every one that his judgment is as good as that of the ablest. Of course the trouble with the ablest people is that they are so largely moved by forces that do not appear on the surface that one does not know that the views they express are really their own judgment. Democracy seems to be government by suspicion, in large part. We have faith in ourselves, but not in each other. A man to be a good partisan seems called upon to believe that every man of different views is a crook or a weakling. This is the Roosevelt idea. And half of it is the Bryan idea.

#### Great War Events.

WASHINGTON, June 6, 1916.

To have Gary and Armour, and Perkins as your chief boomers doesn't make you very popular in Kansas and Iowa. Hughes may be the easiest man to beat, after all, because he vetoed the income tax amendment in New York, a two cent fare bill, and other things which are pretty popular. He is a good man, honest and fine, but not a liberal. The whole Congressional push has been for Hughes for months, but I haven't believed that he would accept the nomination. I made the prophecy to some newspaper men the other day that Roosevelt would get in and endorse Hughes with both fists. They were inclined to doubt this, but I still believe that I am right.

To-day comes word that Kitchener has been drowned and Yuan Shi Kai poisoned. Heaven knows whose turn comes next. Just think of three such events within a week as the sea battle off Denmark, the greatest naval battle of the world; the torpedoing of the Secretary of War and all of his staff; and the poisoning of the Emperor of China. I doubt if there ever was a period in the whole history of the world when things moved as fast and there was as much that was exciting. Of course now we have it all thrown onto a screen in front of our faces, whereas a hundred years ago we would have had to wait for perhaps a year before knowing that the Emperor of China had been killed. Nevertheless I think there is more passion and violence on exhibition to-day than at any time in a great many years.

#### To the President.

TO THE HON. WOODROW WILSON, THE WHITE HOUSE:

WASHINGTON, June 8, 1916.

My Dear Mr. President: I see by the papers that it is repeatedly announced that you are writing the platform. Now I want to take the liberty of saying that this is not altogether good news to me. Our platform should contain such an appreciation of you and your Administration that you could not write it, much less have it known that you have written it. It should be one long joyful shout of exaltation over the achievements of the Administration, and I can't quite see you leading the shout.

The Republican party was for half a century a constructive party, and the Democratic party was the party of negation and complaint. We have taken the play from them. The Democratic party has become the party of construction. You have outlined new policies and put them into effect through every department, from State to Labor. Therefore, our platform should be generously filled with words of boasting that will hearten and make proud the Democrats of the country; a plain tale of large things simply done.

If there is any truth at all in the newspaper statement and any purpose in making it, perhaps the end that is desired might be reached by a statement that you are not undertaking to write the platform, but that at the request of some of the leaders you are

giving them a concrete statement of your foreign policy. Faithfully yours, FRANKLIN K. LANE.

#### Suggestions on Action.

TO THE HON. WOODROW WILSON, THE WHITE HOUSE:

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28, 1916.

My Dear Mr. President: I have had talks this morning with three men, all of them Democrats, all of them strongly for you under any circumstances. None of them are related to railroads or to labor unions. Two of them have recently been out of this city and believe that they have a knowledge of the feeling of the country. All express the same view, and I want to tell it to you in case you write a message to Congress.

They say that the people do not grasp the meaning of your statement that society has made its judgment in favor of an eight hour day. This, the people think, is a matter that can be arbitrated. They ask why can't it be arbitrated? They say that the country feels that you have lined yourself up with the labor unions irrevocably for an eight hour day, as pointed out by Dean L. B. R. Briggs, in a communication to-day to the Harvard Crimson editors Dean Briggs said: "Yearling, the Crimson's pet word for freshmen, is defined by Stormonth as a 'beast in the second year of its age.'"

Now, all of this indicates a lack of knowledge of what your position has been. I am giving you the gist of these conversations because they represent a point of view so that if you desire you may meet such criticism. You must remember, Mr. President, that the American people have not had for fifty years a President who

was not at this period in a campaign bending all his power to purely personal and political ends. Your idealism and unselfishness are so rare that things need to be made particularly clear to them. Faithfully yours, FRANKLIN K. LANE.

The fifteenth and final installment of the Lane letters and diaries will appear to-morrow.

#### NO "YEARLINGS" AT HARVARD.

Dean Briggs Notes Term Means "Beast in Its Second Year."

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Nov. 14.—The term "yearling" as applied to first year men at Harvard may lose its vogue if a delicate regard for its significance, as pointed out by Dean L. B. R. Briggs, is observed. In a communication to-day to the Harvard Crimson editors Dean Briggs said: "Yearling, the Crimson's pet word for freshmen, is defined by Stormonth as a 'beast in the second year of its age.'"

#### ECLIPSE PHOTOGRAPHS TO TEST EINSTEIN VIEW

Taken in Australia, on Way Here for Examination.

HONOLULU, T. H., Nov. 14 (Associated Press).—Twelve photographic plates, carefully packed, the results of photographs of the recent solar eclipse, taken at Wollal, Australia, by Prof. W. W. Campbell of Lick Observatory, California, and his assistants, which passed through here to-day, are believed to be the evidence whether Einstein's theory is correct or not.

Prof. Campbell said that surface inspection of the plates indicated that the exposures had successfully registered the heavenly panorama as it stood during the darkening of the sun September 21 last, but that microscopic measurements would have to be made before any announcement of proof or disproof of Einstein's theory of the bending of star rays in their passage to the earth.

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Fibre and Mohair, in novelty weaves . . .	\$6.50
Pure Silk . . .	\$9.75 to \$19.50

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